Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CANBER 01495 071309Z

72
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /055 W
---------- 067308
R 070726Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5236
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 1495

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AS, PFOR
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT GOES INTO RECESS; POLITICAL
SITUATION CHANGING QUICKLY

1. SUMMARY: AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT WENT INTO MONTH-LONG RECESS MARCH 6 AND NOT SCHEDULED MEET AGAIN UNTIL APRIL 8. MONTH'S HIATUS, WITHOUT FOCUS OF FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES, WILL PROBABLY SEE NEW MOVES WITHIN LIBERAL PARTY TO UNSEAT OPPOSITION LEADER SNEDDEN. RECENTLY-PUBLISHED MORGAN GALLUP POLL SHOWS LABOR IMPROVING ITS PERCENTAGE OF VOTE, THOUGH STILL TRAILING OPPOSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. WITH PARLIAMENT GOING INTO RECESS MARCH 7 AND NOT SCHEDULED TO MEET AGAIN TILL APRIL 8, THERE IS HIATUS WITHIN WHICH BOTH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION ARE ACTIVELY STUDYING POLITICAL PROSPECTS. THERE IS WIDESPREAD BELIEF AMONG LIBERAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT THAT OPPOSITION LEADER SNEDDEN HAS LOST CONSIDERABLE GROUND IN PAST TWO WEEKS. PARLIAMENTARY RECESS, DURING WHICH THERE WILL BE NO WEEKLY MEETING OF LIBERAL CAUCUS, PROVIDES SNEDDEN WITH OPPORTUNITY TO REGAIN LOST GROUND, THOUGH FEW EXPECT HIM TO DO SO. THERE IS POSSIBILITY OF LIBERAL CAUCUS MEETING IN LATE MARCH, ORIGINALLY ARRANGED TO CONSIDER TACTICS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CANBER 01495 071309Z

FOR DEFEATING LABOR GOVERNMENT'S QTE MEDIBANK END QTE (MEDICAL

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

AND HOSPITALIZATION INSURANCE) PROGRAM. IF PRESENT TREND, ADVERSE TO SNEDDEN, CONTINUES, HE MAY BE UNSEATED AS LIBERAL LEADER (AND THEREFORE AS OPPOSITION LEADER) BEFORE PARLIAMENT RESUMES SESSION APRIL 8.

3. MEANWHILE, MORGAN GALLUP POLL PUBLISHED MARCH 5, BASED ON SAMPLE TAKEN WEEK OF FEB 15-22 (HENCE, BEFORE RECENT REPLACEMENT OF SPEAKER OF HOUSE), SHOWS LIBERAL-COUNTRY PARTIES WITH 48 PERCENT OF VOTE, ALP WITH 44 PERCENT, DLP WITH 3 PERCENT, AND AUSTRALIA PARTY WITH 4 PERCENT. OVERALL, THIS SUGGESTS OPPOSITON MAXIMUM VOTE OF 51 PERCENT (LIBERAL-COUNTRY PARTIES, PLUS DLP) AND LABOR GOVERNMENT MAXIMUM VOTE OF 48 PERCENT (ALP PLUS AUSTRALIA PARTY), WITH 1 PERCENT UNDECIDED. POLLS ADMIT TO POSSIBILITY OF 3 PERCENT ERROR EITHER WAY, AND WHITLAM REMAINS CONVINCED HE CAN PICK UP AT LEAST THREE TO FOUR PERCENT OF VOTE IN CAMPAIGN. RESULT IS OVERALL VERY ENCOURAGING TO LABOR GOVERNMENT, AND MAY DRIVE IT TO MOVE FOR NATIONAL ELECTIONS ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE LATER THIS YEAR, IF PRESENT TREND CONTINUES. OPPOSITION AT THIS POINT STILL HAS BASIC ADVANTAGE, BUT THERE IS NOTICEABLY DECLINING ENTHUSIASM AMONG OPPOSITION MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FOR ELECTIONS.

4. ON OTHER HAND, INTERESTING STRAW IN THE WIND UNDERLINES UNCERTAINTIES OF PRESENT SITUATION. EMBASSY INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM FOR FY 1975 INCLUDED FOUR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (SENATOR STEELE HALL, SENATOR RUTH COLEMAN, MHR DAVID CONNOLLY, MHR BRUCE LLOYD) AND ALP STATE FIGURES NEVILLE WRAN (LABOR PARLIAMENTARY LEADER IN NSW), DOUGLAS LOWE (SECRETARY OF ALP IN TASMANIA), AND ROBERT JOLLY (ACTU POLICY RESEARCH OFFICER). ALL HAVE REGRETFULLY INFORMED US THEY CANNOT GO TO U.S. AT THIS TIME, IN VIEW OF UNCERTAIN PROSPECT FOR ELECTIONS.

5. COMMENT: THERE IS EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT ALMOST ANY TREND AT THIS POINT. NEXT SIX WEEKS OR SO SHOULD PROVE DECISIVE AS TO WHETHER ELECTIONS LIKELY THIS YEAR OR NOT.
HARROP

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CANBER01495
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750081-0175
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750373/aaaacnuk.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT GOES INTO RECESS; POLITICAL SITUATION CHANGING QUICKLY
TAGS: PFOR, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006